



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

hood, and who are a curious jumble of adolescent children with adult experiences.

For the great majority of our girls, her best chance will be in some other home other than her own. But it must be the right home. It is not enough to have someone say, "This is a nice family, they will be kind to the girl." It must be a home where the employer understands the problem and will be able to anticipate difficulty, and to hold the girl's interest so keenly that she will not want to slip away. There are many types of girls to place, and the type of the girl must be considered. We try to fit the temperament of the employer and the girl together. It would be stupid to put a slow deliberate girl into a home where the employer is quick and snappy. The whole scheme of parole will be spoiled if their temperaments do not fit.

It is the visitor's job to get into close touch with the girl in the place, that she can smooth out difficulties as they arise. The visitor must see that her ward is not used as a drudge; that her health is not neglected; that she is escorted, when necessary, to the dentist and the hospital; that she spends her wages wisely, and she must be a sympathetic confidant to her ward's love affairs. When the employer's patience as at an end, the visitor must find the girl another place and yet another. If she fails seriously, the girl must be returned to the school for a further period of discipline and training, and her matron at the institution must have the courage presently to help the girl to go out on a fresh venture in a world full of temptations. Sometimes a girl whose first years on parole were a long series of discouraging episodes, finally grows into a woman and makes good.

If a girl proves trustworthy, if she gains self-reliance and self-control, we are only too glad to put her into any sort of work she can turn to with intelligence. Not infrequently a girl goes to high school and wins a good industrial record. Others sometimes go back to their family to become the comfort and mainstay of parents, and of young brothers and sisters.

Girls who lead an unblemished life during their parole, and who take their place as self-reliant and self-respecting members of the community, are granted an honorable discharge by the Board of Trustees before they pass out of its guardianship at the age of 21. An honorable discharge is reported to the court from which the girl was committed, and is made a matter of court record. Such a certificate of achievement is rightly prized.

A parole visitor, to do justice to her work, should not be expected to look after more than thirty-five girls. If, on the basis of dollars and cents, this seems an extravagantly small number, let the expense of even the best painstaking after-care be contrasted with the maintenance of one of our wards in an institution. The last published report of the Massachusetts Training Schools shows an expense of \$81,749.70 for the maintenance of some 260 inmates in the Industrial School for Girls, against an outlay of \$19,599.56 for the care of an average of 281 girls on parole. This gives a per capita cost of \$5.90 for those inside the institution against a per capita cost of \$1.34 for those outside.

The work of a parole visitor makes immense demands upon tact and patience and sympathy. It demands special training. It demands native talent for that special line of work. But for those who are qualified, it offers a rare opportunity for service and for study.—Edith N. Burleigh, Superintendent Parole Department, Massachusetts Training Schools.

Success of Probation in New York.—That the war has increased delinquency, especially among young girls, but that this increase has been offset

to a large degree by greater vigilance on the part of the probation officers of the state, is shown in the Eleventh Annual Report of the New York State Probation Commission for 1917, just submitted to the legislature.

The commission finds that the number of young girls placed on probation from the courts of the state began to increase markedly at about the time that the United States entered the war one year ago, and that the number has remained abnormally large ever since. This increase is due to greatly increased temptations to young girls about soldiers' camps and to the attractiveness of the uniform. Probation officers have been kept busy in certain localities dealing with "girl and soldier" cases. The commission points out the need for increased supervision of amusements, the prevention of the promiscuous meeting of young girls and stranger soldiers, and the immediate need for more probation officers, especially women to deal with these cases.

The probation system as a method for disciplining and reforming offenders was used in the higher courts of all but nine of the counties of the state last year and in all but six of the fifty-eight cities. It is also being used increasingly by the village judges and justices of the peace of the towns. Thirty-four counties now employ regular salaried county probation officers who are authorized by law to serve in any court in their counties. There are now 202 salaried probation officers serving throughout the state in addition to many unsalaried volunteers.

During the statistical year ending June 30, 1917, a total of 21,847 persons were placed on probation by courts of the state, an increase of 13% over the number placed the year before. The greatest increases were shown among young girls and men.

Probation was used with success for all sorts of offenses from truancy and malicious mischief to grand larceny and burglary. The system has proven its usefulness both for juvenile delinquents and adult criminals although the methods used by the officers are different in different cases. While a total of 6,820 children under sixteen were dealt with on probation during the year, more than twice as many adults were so dealt with. Seventy-six per cent of all cases placed in probation completed their probation with improvement; 13% were returned to court for sentence and only 5% were lost from oversight.

The commission believes there is a direct connection between the recent marked decrease in the population of the correctional institutions of the state, especially the reformatories and state prisons, and the steady increase in the use of probation. The population of the state prisons was almost 1,000 less in 1917 than it was in 1916.

An even greater decrease in the population was shown in the state reformatories. Better industrial conditions have contributed to this remarkable decrease, but the constantly increasing use of the probation system all over the state has probably been an even more important factor.

The commission points out the economy as well as the greater effectiveness of giving offenders, especially the younger and first offenders, an opportunity to make good under helpful supervision and without the stigma of a prison sentence. It finds that the annual per capita cost for actual maintenance of a criminal in the correctional institutions of the state is \$282.60. The actual annual cost for giving offenders probation, including all salaries and expenses of probation officers and the cost of supervision by the State Probation Commission, is \$19.14 for each probationer.

Probation among adults is used most extensively in non-support and domestic relations cases. Twenty-seven per cent of all adults placed on probation last year were for non-support. A total of \$169,501 was collected by probation officers last year and paid over to the wives and children of non-supporting husbands, \$75,000 was collected in instalment fines and restitution to injured parties.

The commission recommends:

1. The employment of efficient, salaried probation officers appointed under the civil service in every city and county of the state. Wherever possible both men and women probation officers should be employed, the women to deal with girls and women, and the male officers with men and older boys.

2. The salaries of probation officers should be increased considerably over the amounts now paid so as to attract experienced and efficient persons to this service. Probation officers should give their entire time to their work, not as now in some cases be obliged to carry on other work in order to support themselves.

3. County probation officers should be given necessary traveling expenses and clerical assistance so that they may cover all parts of their districts. Wherever possible special officers should be employed to carry on probation work in the towns and villages.

4. Clinics for the mental and physical examination of delinquents should be made available to all courts. These examinations together with the social investigations of the probation officers should lead to greater discrimination in dealing with delinquents and the segregation of those unable to take care of themselves in society.—Charles L. Chute, Sec'y, N. Y. Probation Commission, Albany, N. Y.

Proceedings of the Delinquency Section of the Commonwealth Club of California.—At a meeting of the Delinquency Section of the Commonwealth Club of California, held Thursday, February 14, 1918, at 7 o'clock p. m., the work of the section was discussed and the lines of endeavor blocked out. It is hoped that the members who have not yet engaged in specific work of the section will find in the proposed activities some line of work in which they can participate. This letter is sent also to persons interested in the subject and it is hoped many of them will be able to join in the work of the section, whether members of the club or not. It is also requested that the members get others who are interested to take part in the work of the section to the end that the plans agreed on shall not fail of execution for want of co-operation. In the scheme of the Commonwealth Club the Delinquency Section has entire jurisdiction of the subject of delinquency and everything connected with criminal law and criminology, except criminal procedure. The section was greatly indebted to Mr. Justice Wilbur of the Supreme Court of the State of California for valuable suggestions. In the discussion, which was participated in by Messrs. Oliver, Bank, Keane, Vollmer, Schneider and Kidd, the need of a comprehensive plan was strongly urged—a plan to work up to like that adopted by the city, a plan into which each separate activity would find a proper place. The following suggestions have been made:

A.—GENERAL MEASURES

1. A radical revision of the penal code, eliminating the arbitrary historical distinction between felonies and misdemeanors with the attendant consequences,